

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A descriptor propagation system comprising:
5 a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first descriptor associated with a first content granularity; and
a descriptor generator device that generates a second descriptor associated with a second content granularity based on the first descriptor, wherein the second content granularity is finer than the first content
10 granularity.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a descriptor propagation device that generates a propagation function based upon the first descriptor and the first content granularity,
15 wherein the descriptor generator device generates the second descriptor based upon the propagation function and the first descriptor.
3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a repository that stores the first descriptor associated with the first
20 content granularity.
4. A descriptor mapping system, comprising:
a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first descriptor at a first

content granularity;

an information repository that stores a mapping function; and

a descriptor generator device that generates a second descriptor at a second content granularity which is finer than the first content granularity based upon the first descriptor and the mapping function.

5 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the second descriptor is different than the first descriptor and is stored in the information repository.

10 6. The system of claim 4, further comprising:
a descriptor mapping device that generates another mapping function based upon the first descriptor and the first content granularity, and that stores the second mapping function in the information repository.

15 7. The system of claim 4, further comprising:
a repository that stores the first descriptor associated with a first content granularity.

8. A descriptor classification system, comprising:

20 a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first content that includes a first descriptor at a first content granularity; and

a descriptor generator device that generates an output content that includes the first descriptor at a second content granularity based upon a

second content at the first content granularity,

wherein the second content granularity is finer than the first content granularity.

5 9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a descriptor classification device that generates a classification function based upon the first content, and

10 wherein the descriptor generator device generates the output content based upon the classification function and the second content at the first content granularity.

10. A method for propagating descriptors, comprising:

analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity; and

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outputting the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein analyzing the first content to determine the propagation function comprises extracting features from the first content.

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12. A method for mapping descriptors, comprising:

mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

outputting the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein the mapping function is stored in an information repository.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the second descriptor is different
10 than the first descriptor and is stored in an information repository.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising analyzing the first descriptor to generate another mapping function.

15 16. A method for classifying descriptors comprising:
generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;
accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and
providing the first descriptor to the second content at a second content
20 granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function.

17. A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of

machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of propagating descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

5 instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for providing the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function.

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18. A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of mapping descriptors, comprising:

instructions for mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

instructions for outputting the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

20 19. The medium of claim 18, wherein the second descriptor is different than the first descriptor and is stored in an information repository.

20. A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of

machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of classifying descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

5 instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for providing the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function.

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21. A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for propagating descriptors, said method comprising:

15 analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity; and

outputting the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

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22. A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for mapping descriptors,

said method comprising:

mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

5 outputting the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

23. A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for classifying

10 descriptors, said method comprising:

generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and providing the first descriptor to the second content at a second content

15 granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function.